

May 23, 1975

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mr. President, your escort committee now prepared to escort his excellency, the Governor of the great State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Ask them to come forward please. It's a privilege for the Chair to introduce to you the Governor of the State of Nebraska, J. James Exon.

GOVERNOR: Mr. President and Mr. Speaker, members of the First Session of the Eighty-fourth Legislature, and ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for inviting me to your chambers for some closing remarks. I assure you that I will be brief. I think it's probably the understatement of the year to date to say that this has been a very tough session for all. While there have been sharp disagreements on many many subjects, there have been more agreement among us than is generally recognized. Much constructive legislation has been enacted by this Legislature. I will not delay you with the extensive review, but I do, among others, especially thank you and commend you for your efforts in several specific areas. Your accomplishments in increasing workmans compensation benefits, assisting in the helping to clear up the problems that have been attendant with LB 403 of last year, the increase in the veterans assistance fund, the quick response to help the citizens of the Omaha area as a result of that tragic tornado, the passage of the new benefits to our state troopers with regard to their retirement, the passage of salary increases to our dedicated state employees, the clarification of the good time laws, increased subsidies for bus transportation for senior citizens and handicapped citizens, local control of the community technical colleges, and sustaining my vetoes on several spending measures yesterday are particularly noteworthy. There were many accomplishments this session. Many that I have not taken time to mention today. Those accomplishments are a tribute to the individual Senators, the committees of this body and certainly groups of Senators on various occasions. Nothing can be served here this afternoon on my dwelling on our differences. We can argue that you are certainly entitled to your opinions as State Senators. With that I heartily agree. I hope that you would agree with me also that as you serve your districts with your ideas, I have the responsibility as Governor, with a larger constituency, to do also what I think is right.

I have been disappointed at your actions on LB 381. However, with your override of my veto of this measure a few minutes ago, I see no valid reason to call a special session of this body. However, I would like to advise you that I will immediately request that the Attorney General undertake legal action in an attempt to eliminate the unconstitutional, unworkable and unfair portions of that act, as I advised you in my veto message.

Between sessions I invite you to drop in, because I sincerely need your counsel and your advice. Our communications, of course, are very important. Thank you for your dedicated efforts and services in behalf of the citizens of this great state. Good luck and goodbye till next January. Thank you.